

**ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING FOR APHIS PEST AND
DISEASE CONTROL AND ERADICATION PROGRAMS**

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This Directive requires the development and implementation of environmental monitoring plans for certain activities conducted by APHIS regarding pest and disease control and eradication programs.

2. REPLACEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

This Directive replaces APHIS Directive 5640.1, dated 5/1/96.

3. AUTHORITIES AND REFERENCES

- a. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. 4321, et seq.
- b. Regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality implementing the procedural aspects of NEPA, 40 CFR 1500-1508.
- c. U.S. Department of Agriculture's "NEPA Regulations" (7 CFR 1b, 3100).
- d. APHIS "National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures" (7 CFR 372).
- e. Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1531, et seq.
- f. Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), 7 U.S.C. 136-136y.
- g. Toxic Substances Control Act, 15 U.S.C. 2601, et seq.
- h. Noise Control Act, 42 U.S.C. 4901, et seq.
- i. Safe Drinking Water Act, 42 U.S.C. 300-1, et seq.
- j. Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. 1857, et seq.
- k. Federal Water Pollution Control Act, 33 U.S.C. 1251, et seq.

- l. Executive Order 12898 “Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations.”
- m. Executive Order 13045 “Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks.”
- n. APHIS Safety and Health Manual 4790.

4. DEFINITIONS

- a. **Environment.** Water, air, land, and all life forms in them, and the interrelationships that exist among these components.
- b. **Environmental monitoring.** The systematic measurement and analysis of changes in environmental components or processes in order to:
 - (1) Assess the effects of a program action on the environment.
 - (2) Ensure program compliance with laws, regulations, policies, executive directives, and management decisions.
- c. **Data collection.** Field sampling and/or surveys of the environmental components that are considered most sensitive and most likely to indicate any potential impact.

5. BACKGROUND

The mission of APHIS is to provide leadership in ensuring the health and care of animals and plants, to improve agricultural productivity and competitiveness, and to contribute to the national economy and the public health. APHIS is committed to accomplishing its mission in a manner that promotes and protects the integrity of the environment. This includes Agency compliance with all applicable environmental statutes.

APHIS conducts many types of monitoring activities to assess the adequacy of its programs in meeting specific objectives. Examples include efficacy of control treatments, effectiveness and efficiency of program operating procedures, and compliance with environmental or health and safety statutes. In some cases, the same monitoring protocols can be used to satisfy different monitoring objectives.

The goal of environmental monitoring is to track the potential impact that APHIS activities may have on the environment and human health, and to use this knowledge in making any necessary adjustments in future program actions. Viewed in this way, environmental monitoring is an essential part of the Agency's decision support system which provides valuable program-related feedback to decision makers.

6. POLICY

In order to monitor for potential environmental impacts related to APHIS control and eradication programs, APHIS units must develop and implement environmental monitoring plans when any of the following apply:

- a. The Administrator determines that circumstances dictate the need for environmental monitoring of a particular action.
- b. A requirement for such monitoring is contained in a program's environmental documentation, such as an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement developed to comply with NEPA, or documents prepared to comply with the Endangered Species Act.
- c. Pesticides are applied under FIFRA, section 18 exemptions (i.e., for emergency situations).

7. DESIGN OF ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING PROGRAMS

- a. New Programs.
 - (1) Any APHIS unit that designs a new program must ensure that environmental monitoring plans are contained in the overall program design.
 - (2) New monitoring program design activities must be coordinated with:
 - (a) Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) Environmental Monitoring Unit (EM).
 - (b) Policy and Program Development (PPD).
 - (c) Other APHIS units, as appropriate.
 - (3) When a new program is designed, environmental monitoring plans must be coordinated with:
 - (a) EM.
 - (b) The APHIS unit that will implement the new program.
 - (c) Other APHIS units, as appropriate.

- b. Ongoing Programs.

EM must recommend and communicate changes in the design of monitoring plans for ongoing programs.

8. DATA COLLECTION

- a. PPQ, International Services, Wildlife Services, Veterinary Services, and, when necessary, Animal Care, must budget adequate resources to ensure full implementation of the monitoring plan to include appropriate collection of samples and/or survey data.
- b. EM must develop operational guidelines (manuals) and train field personnel in sampling and survey techniques.

9. SAMPLE ANALYSIS

- a. PPQ, International Services, Wildlife Services, Veterinary Services, and, when necessary, Animal Care, must budget adequate resources to ensure analysis of samples and survey data.
- b. EM must coordinate sample analyses to ensure that data furnished is useful for interpretation.
- c. When it is more economical and/or efficient, APHIS units may employ laboratories outside the Agency for sample analysis.

10. INTERPRETATION

- a. EM must analyze and review data and compare it with environmental standards and monitoring objectives.
- b. EM must assess the statutory implications of monitoring results, particularly for compliance with NEPA.

11. COMMUNICATION AND ACTION

- a. EM must communicate the results from their interpretation activities to appropriate APHIS units and outside organizations.
- b. Based on interpretation of results, APHIS units must:

- (1) Adjust monitoring plans and techniques to achieve greater efficiency and effectiveness.
- (2) Amend environmental documentation, when appropriate, to incorporate revised monitoring plans and pertinent data from previous monitoring.
- (3) Determine program compliance with environmental statutes, regulations, policies, executive directives, and management decisions.
- (4) Adjust or provide alternative program operating procedures to minimize the potential for adverse environmental impacts.

12. INQUIRIES

- a. The policy and instructions in this Directive are based on the paper "Environmental Monitoring Policy for APHIS Pest and Disease Control and Eradication Programs," prepared by a team of representatives from the major APHIS units, issued November 15, 1989 and revised March 12, 1990.
- b. Direct requests for copies of this policy paper or other inquiries to EM on 301-734-7175.
- c. Copies of current APHIS directives can be accessed on the Internet at www.aphis.usda.gov/library.

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Administrator